Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/824,116	ITOU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James R. Harvey	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *interview dated 5-26-05*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1,3,4,6,7 and 9-11*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *13 May 2005* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *5-27-05* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312.

To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hespos on 5-26-05.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A connector having a housing with opposite front and rear ends and at least one cavity extending between the front and rear ends and configured for receiving at least one terminal fitting, a resiliently displaceable lock provided on an inner wall of the cavity, the lock being configured for being resilient displaced by the terminal fitting during insertion of the terminal fitting into the cavity along an inserting direction, the lock resiliently returning when the terminal fitting is inserted a specified distance into the cavity so that a locking surface of the lock engages an engaging portion of the terminal fitting for locking the terminal fitting so as not to come out, the locking surface of the lock being slanted to form an obtuse angle with respect to the inserting direction, the obtuse angle being oriented so that portions of the locking surface projecting farther into the cavity are farther from the front end of the cavity when the lock is not deformed, a retainer mounted to the housing and configured for entering a deformation space for the lock to prevent the resilient displacement of the lock,

whereby the obtuse angle of the locking surface enables the lock to urge the terminal fitting towards the front end of the cavity.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the retainer includes at least one pushing portion for engaging the lock to displace the lock towards the terminal fitting upon entering the deformation space.

4. (previously presented) The connector of claim 3, further comprising means for holding the retainer at a first position where the retainer is retracted from the deformation space to permit the resilient displacement of the locking and at a second position where the retainer is located in the deformation space.

5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented) The connector of claim 1, wherein the lock comprises a disengagement operable portion for engaging a disengagement jig inserted into the housing.

7. (previously presented) The connector of claim 6, wherein the disengagement operable portion is inclined with respect to the inserting direction and has a greater angle of inclination than the angle of the locking surface.

8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) The connector of claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein ~~the cavity defines an inserting direction extending from the rear end to the front end~~, the locking surface ~~defining~~ defines an angle of inclination with respect to the inserting direction of between approximately 100° and approximately 150°.

10. (previously presented) The connector of claim 9, wherein the locking surface defines an angle of inclination with respect to the inserting direction of between approximately 105° and approximately 140°.

11. (previously presented) The connector of claim 9, wherein the locking surface defines an angle of inclination with respect to the inserting direction of between approximately 110° and approximately 135°.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The prior art does not show the obtuse angle being oriented so that portions of the locking surface projecting farther into the cavity are farther from the front end of the cavity when the lock is not deformed, and the obtuse angle of the locking surface enables the lock to urge the terminal fitting towards the front end of the cavity in combination with all the other elements of the claim. The examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The following is an examiner's summary of the interview: During the interview, it was agreed that the prior art did not show the obtuse angle being oriented so that portions of the locking surface projecting farther into the cavity are farther from the front end of the cavity when

the lock in not deformed and the obtuse angle of the locking surface enables the lock to urge the terminal fitting towards the front end of the cavity.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh
May 27, 2005

RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER